

BOOK NOTICES/BOOKS RECEIVED

Natural Resources Management

P.E. Ffolliott, L.A. Bojorquez, and M. Hernandez-Narvaez. 2001. **Natural Resources Management Practices: A. Primer.** (ISBN 0-8138-0913-4, pbk.) Iowa State Press, A Blackwell Publishing Company, PO Box 570, Ames, IA, 50010-0570, U.S.A. (Orders: 800-862-6657; www.iowastatepress.com). \$34.99, 256 pp., b/w figures, tables, 5 appendices, 6" x 9".

The topic of natural resources practices are of ever-increasing interest to many. Authors, Ffolliott, Bojorquez and Hernandez-Narvaez, provide a wonderful introduction to the management approaches of many natural resource arenas in their book entitled *Natural Resources Management Practices: A Primer*. The easy-to-understand text would be appropriate for undergraduate introduction to the topic of natural resources management. In addition, it is well suited for anyone with an interest in the practices that help preserve wildlife, outdoor recreation areas and that help protect soil, water, forests and other natural products and resources.

The text presents management and conservation practices for water, watersheds, rangeland, timber, agroforestry, wildlife, fisheries, outdoor recreation areas, wilderness, fire and pest control, soil conservation, and rehabilitation of disturbed lands. There is also an excellent discussion of the decision-making process when considering various management options in the integrated natural resources management chapter. Each chapter ends with a review of the main features of each management topic.

Throughout the text the reader is encouraged to think of management in a broad ecosystem-based approach and to consider potential impacts from changes in practices regarding one use on other uses or activities in an area. Basic backgrounds for each management topic areas are introduced prior to discussion of management techniques and greatly enhance understanding of the management methodology discussed. The "real world" examples of selected management techniques are incredibly helpful and interesting. Many such real world applications are referenced to journal articles, which allow individual exploration on a technique or topic of interest.

The appendices include various approaches for analyzing and evaluation of management methods. There is a brief introduction to experimental design and statistical analysis of plot studies performed to measure potential impacts of management practices. These plot studies allow researchers to better predict the effectiveness of a management method by testing that method on small-scale areas. Computer simulation modeling, allows researchers or managers to examine impacts and changes that may arise from application of a management technique in a virtual way. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are discussed as a possible tool in evaluating and guiding management methods.

The authors used English units in a number of examples. English units may increase the understanding of examples for many readers, as they are familiar with feet and inches, but metric units (Système Internationale) are considered more appropriate in academia. The authors have provided values in an appendix to allow conversion to metric values if desired.

Natural Resources Management Practices: A. Primer provides a very informative introduction to many facets of natural resources management. The text also provides a well-rounded overview to related topics of data analysis, computer simulation and GIS to evaluate or compare management techniques. The book is recommended not only for science or engineering students, but also for any reader who wishes to gain a better understanding of natural resources management techniques and rationale. —Lee Luckeydoo, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.